

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 COME-00 MCT-01 DHA-05 SY-05
USSS-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 AF-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2447
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 20 TERRORISM DISCUSSION IN THE
BUNDESTAG

REF: (A) BONN 16279, (B) BONN 17131

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF SCHLEYER'S BRUTAL MURDER,
THE OCTOBER 20 BUNDESTAG DISCUSSION WAS COLORED BY
THE SOMBER PROSPECT OF NEW TERRORIST ASSAULTS. CHAN-
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CELLOR SCHMIDT AND ALL CAUCUS LEADERS PLEDGED TO WORK
TOGETHER FOR NEW ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION. THERE WERE
NO POLEMICS, BUT THE RIFT WITHIN THE SPD FRAKTION WAS
OBVIOUSLY ON EVERYONE'S MIND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BUTCHERING OF HANNS MARTIN SCHLEYER HAS CLOSED
ONE CHAPTER IN THE FRG'S STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM AND

OPENED ANOTHER ONE. LAST EVENING, FRG SECURITY FORCES LAUNCHED A MANHUNT WHICH IS UNPARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. CONTROLS IN BONN AND ELSEWHERE HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED; POLICE ARE PASSING OUT FLIERS WITH DATA ON THE 16 WANTED PERSONS; MEDIA ARE APPEALING TO THE CITIZENRY FOR HELP.

2. ANNOUNCING THE DEATH OF SCHLEYER LAST NIGHT, FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING PLEDGED THAT THE FRG WILL RUTHLESSLY TRACK DOWN THE GUILTY PARTIES. AN OFFICIAL OF THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFICE (BUNDESKRIMINALAMT) CLAIMED THAT THE SAME GROUP OF TERRORISTS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN: THE MURDERS OF STATE PROSECUTOR BUBACK AND HIS COMPANIONS, BANKER PONTO, AND SCHLEYER AND HIS ESCORT; THE ABORTED BOMBING OF THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN KARLSRUHE; AND THE SKYJACKING OF THE LUFTHANSA PLANE.

3. THE BUNDESTAG MET BRIEFLY ON THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20, TO HEAR STATEMENTS BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND LEADERS OF THE THREE CAUCUSES (FRAKTIONEN): HELMUT KOHL (CDU/CSU), HERBERT WEHNER (SPD), AND WOLFGANG MISCHNICK (FDP). THERE WERE NO POLEMICS: ALL STATEMENTS WERE SOMBER AND DETERMINED. THERE WAS BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS ON MANY POINTS: TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD AND CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES; PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO HAD LIBERATED THE LUFTHANSA PLANE AND WORKED ON THE SCHLEYER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASE; DEEP APPRECIATION TO SOMALIA; DETERMINATION THAT THE STATE MUST NOT GIVE IN TO TERRORISM; THE PLEDGE OF CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SOLIDARITY; AND--THE GRIMMEST POINT--THE EXPECTATION OF NEW, MAJOR TERRORIST OUTRAGES.

4. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MADE THE LONGEST REMARKS. IN CONTRAST TO SOME OTHERS OF THE "CRISIS STAFF" WHO APPEARED PALE, SCHMIDT LOOKED FIT AND SPOKE IN A STRONG VOICE. THE DEATH OF SCHLEYER FORCED HIM TO DOWNPLAY THE FRG'S VICTORY AT MOGADISCIO. TO A STRIKING EXTENT, MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID HAD RELIGIOUS OVERTONES. SCHMIDT QUOTED THE LEADERS OF THE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE FRG; HE PRAISED THE POPE FOR HIS INTERCESSION DURING THE LUFTHANSA SKYJACKING; HE APOSTROPHIZED SOMALIA AS THE GOOD SAMARITAN; AND HE ENDED HIS SPEECH WITH A SOMBER "GOD HELP US." (SCHMIDT IS ONE OF THE FEW PRACTICING CHRISTIANS IN THE TOP LEVELS OF THE SPD.) A. WHILE DEFENDING THE DECISIONS HIS GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IN THE SCHLEYER AND LUFTHANSA CASES, SCHMIDT TOOK PAINS TO NOTE THE WEIGHING OF ALTERNATIVES AND THE FACT THAT EACH DECISION HAS ITS PRICE. HE PRAISED THE

OPPOSITION FOR ITS COOPERATION IN PLANNING THE STEPS
THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN, AND HE OPINED THAT SUCH SOLIDARITY
WILL CONTINUE IN THE TRIALS AHEAD AND AS THE BUNDESTAG
ADDRESSES NEW LEGISLATION TO COMBAT TERRORISM. AT THE
SAME TIME, THE CHANCELLOR CAUTIONED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
ALONE BEARS THE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND THAT THE

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DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN MOST CASES REQUIRES POLITICAL
OPPOSITION. HE REJECTED ANY NOTION OF "GRAND LEGIS-
LATIVE COALITIONS" FOR AREAS OTHER THAN TERRORISM.

B. SCHMIDT ADDRESSED SEVERAL PASSAGES TO GERMAN

YOUTH, IN ITS QUEST FOR MEANINGFUL VALUES IN A MATERIALISTIC AGE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC STATE DEFENDS HIGHER VALUES, AND HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORIENT THEMSELVES IN THAT DIRECTION. AT ONE POINT HE PARAPHRASED JFK'S REMARK ON THE NEED TO FOCUS ON WHAT THE CITIZEN CAN DO FOR HIS COUNTRY RATHER THAN WHAT THE COUNTRY CAN DO FOR THE CITIZEN.

C. THE CHANCELLOR SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SUICIDES AT STAMMHEIM PRISON. HE CALLED ON LAND AUTHORITIES TO CLEAR UP THE AFFAIR QUICKLY FOR THE SAKE OF, INTER ALIA, THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN IMAGE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE ARGUED THAT THE TERRORISTS DESTROYED THEMSELVES AS PART OF THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FRG. (EARLIER, THE FORENSIC SPECIALISTS WHO CONDUCTED THE AUTOPSIES ON BAADER, ENSSLIN, AND RASPE CONFIRMED THE VERDICT OF SUICIDE. THE DEFENSE LAWYERS, PREDICTABLY, CHALLENGED THAT FINDING.)

5. OTHER SPEAKERS HAD LITTLE TO SAY. OPPOSITION LEADER KOHL PLEDGED FURTHER CDU/CSU COOPERATION TO CRUSH TERRORISM, AND CLAIMED A SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. HE INTERPRETED SCHMIDT'S REMARK ON SOLIDARITY TO MEAN "ALL MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE"--A BLUNT ALLUSION TO REBELS IN THE SPD AND FDP WHO HAD BALKED OVER THE ANTI-TERRORISM "KONTAKTSPERREGESETZ" A FEW WEEKS AGO (REFS). SCHMIDT NODDED VIGOROUSLY AND DEMONSTRATIVELY WHEN KOHL MADE THAT REMARK.

6. SPD CAUCUS CHIEF WEHNER UNDERScoreD HIS PARTY'S DESIRE FOR A "FAIR PARTNERSHIP" WITH ALL WHO WANT TO PREVENT A SLIDE BACKWARD INTO THE "HORRORS OF THE PAST." HE CALLED ON ALL CITIZENS TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE, AND HE AGREED EXPLICITLY WITH KOHL'S REMARK ON THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER. WEHNER TOOK NO DIRECT SWIPE AT THE SPD REBELS, BUT HE WARNED THAT PERSONAL EGO-TRIPS HAVE NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLACE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE TWO LEADERS OF THE SPD DISSIDENTS--COPPICK AND HANSEN--WERE ABSENT WHEN WEHNER SPOKE. COPPICK HAD LISTENED SILENTLY, WITHOUT APPLAUDING, DURING SCHMIDT'S REMARKS.

7. FDP CAUCUS LEADER MISCHNICK FOCUSSED ON THE SHOCK OF

STAMMHEIM, AND THE "FAILURE" OF THE SECURITY FORCES THERE. HE PLEDGED FDP WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ALL PARTIES IN THE FURTHER CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM, AND-- UNUSUAL FOR AN FDP MAN--HE QUOTED CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS FAVORABLY IN REGARD TO NEW LEGISLATIVE STEPS. AT THE SAME TIME, MISCHNICK WARNED AGAINST A CONTINUATION OF POLEMICAL EXCESSES WHICH HAVE MARRED RECENT DISCUSSION. HE GAVE NO EXAMPLES, BUT HE CLEARLY MEANT A FEW ITEMS WHICH HAVE ISSUED FROM THE CDU/CSU CAMP.

8. WE HAVE LEARNED, AS A LATE ITEM, THAT JUSTICE MINISTER BENDER OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG HAS ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION, IN EFFECT ASSUMING POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISHANDLING OF STAMMHEIM PRISON SECURITY WHICH PERMITTED COORDINATED SUICIDES BY TERRORISTS. IN POLITICAL TERMS, THE STAMMHEIM AFFAIR IS BEGINNING TO BE USED AS A POLITICAL CLUB BY THE SPD AND FDP AGAINST THE OPPOSITION--SINCE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG IS A CDU-RUN STATE AND BENDER IS A CDU MEMBER--AND OVERTONES OF THIS WERE CLEAR IN TODAY'S BUNDESTAG PROCEEDINGS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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